

228. GALLINAGO NIGRIPENNIS. Black-quilled Snipe.

Gallinago nigropennis Bp.

Bill dark brown ; legs greenish black.

The Black-quilled Snipe was very common at Lake Naivasha.

229. LARUS PHÆOCEPHALUS. Grey-headed Gull.

Larus phæocephalus Hartl.

Bill and legs crimson.

The Grey-headed Gulls were often seen flying over Lake Naivasha, and I believe that a pair were breeding in a small swamp ; but though I made a careful search, I could find neither eggs nor young. The exquisite roseate colour on the breast of this species fades quickly after it has been shot.

230. PODICIPES CRISTATUS. Great Crested Grebe.

Podiceps cristatus L.

Iris red.

231. PODICIPES CAPENSIS. African Little Grebe.

Podiceps capensis Licht.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

The African Little Grebe and the Great Crested Grebe were both common on Lake Naivasha.

XXVI.—*Proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1909.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union for this year was held at the house of the Zoological Society of London, 3 Hanover Square (by permission), on May 26th. The Chair was taken by the President, Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S.

The minutes of the meetings held on December 9th and 10th, 1908, were read and confirmed.

The following new Rule, which had been unanimously passed at the Special General Meeting held on December 10th, 1908, was submitted to the Meeting and confirmed :—

“If, in the opinion of the Committee, any Member shall have acted in a manner injurious to the interests or good name of the Union, or shall have personally assisted in or connived at the capture or destruction of any bird, nest, or eggs in the British Isles, by purchase or otherwise, likely, in the opinion of the Committee, to lead to the extermination or serious diminution of that species as a British bird, the Secretary shall be directed to send a registered letter to that Member, stating the facts brought before the Committee and asking for an explanation of the same, but without mentioning the source from which such information was obtained. After allowing a reasonable time (not less than a clear fortnight after the receipt of the Secretary’s letter) for reply or for appearing in person before the Committee if he so desire, the Committee, providing not less than four are agreed, shall have power to remove that gentleman’s name from the List of Members without assigning any reason. Such Member may, if he so desire, stand for re-election by ballot at the next Annual General Meeting, and in the event of his re-election no fee for re-admission shall be required.”

The Report of the Committee, which was then read, announced the continued prosperity of the Union during the past year, both as regards its membership and its finances. The Annual Volume of ‘The Ibis’ for 1908 (the fiftieth of the whole and the second of the Ninth Series) had been edited by Dr. P. L. Selater, D.Sc., F.R.S., and Mr. A. H. Evans, M.A. It contained 660 pages and was illustrated with 10 coloured plates, 3 maps, and 7 text-figures.

With much regret the Committee reported the deaths of the following Members since the last Annual Meeting :—

Prof. Barboza du Bocage, Col. Hanbury Barclay, Col. C. T. Bingham, S. G. Buxton, E. N. F. Fenwick, W. H. Hudleston, and William Mitchell.

The following gentlemen had resigned, viz., J. H. Allchin, F. R. S. Baltour, R. J. Colman, Rev. A. G. G. Cowie, A. K. Haagner, W. H. Hudson, Rev. W. K. Martin, A. I. Simey,

and W. B. Tegetmeier; and the names of C. B. Cory and J. C. Hartland had been removed from the List of Members under Rule 6.

At the date of the Meeting the Union consisted of 422 Ordinary Members, 2 Extra-Ordinary, 10 Honorary, 8 Colonial, and 19 Foreign Members.

The Committee further reported that a Special Meeting in commemoration of the Jubilee of the Founding of the Union had been held on December 9th, 1908. Gold Medals, struck to commemorate the occasion, had been presented to four surviving Original Members, Dr. F. Du Cane Godman, Dr. P. L. Sclater, Percy S. Godman, Esq., and Wilfrid H. Hudleston, Esq. It was proposed that similar Medals should be occasionally given in recognition of any special work in ornithology. One of the Medals had also been presented to the National Collection of Medals in the British Museum. The Jubilee Supplement to 'The Ibis' for 1908, issued in March last, had completed the Jubilee Commemoration.

It had also been decided at the Jubilee Meeting that an ornithological expedition, which was shortly going out to explore Central New Guinea, should be undertaken under the auspices of the Union.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1908, was then submitted and approved, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Edward Bidwell, the Auditor.

Dr. F. G. Penrose and Mr. Edward Bidwell having been appointed Scrutineers to superintend the ballot, the Meeting proceeded to elect the Officers for the ensuing year, and on the conclusion of the ballot it was announced that Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S., had been re-elected President, and Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., F.L.S., Secretary; also that Mr. D. Seth-Smith had been elected a Member of the Committee in the place of Mr. Frederick Gillett, who had retire by rotation.

The following 17 gentlemen were then balloted for and elected Ordinary Members of the Union :—Thomas H. Briggs, M.A., F.E.S., Rock House, Lynmouth, N. Devon; David C.

Campbell, J.P., Templemore Park, Londonderry; C.I. Carroll, Rocklow, Fethard, Co. Tipperary; Lieut. William M. Congreve, R.G.A., Breinton House, Hereford; Capt. Alfred Delmé-Radeliffe (Indian Army), Satara, Deccan, India; Capt. Richard Fanshawe (late Scots Guards), Admiralty House, Portsmouth; William E. Frost, J.P., Ardvreck, Crieff, Perthshire; Claude H. B. Grant, F.Z.S., 30 Wimbledon Park Road, West Hill, Wimbledon; the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bt., P.C., M.P., F.Z.S., Falloden, Christon Bank, R.S.O., Northumberland; Staff-Surgeon Kenneth H. Jones, M.B., Ch.B., R.N., Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth; George H. Lings, Barciocroft, Burnage, Didsbury, Manchester; Norman D. Macnaghten, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, Egypt; the Rev. Ernest U. Savage, 129 Upper Canning Street, Liverpool; Malcolm C. C. Seton, 13 Clarendon Road, Holland Park, W.; Lieut. W. P. C. Tenison, R.F.A., 62nd Battery R.F.A., Nowshera, N.W.F.P., India; Henry L. White, Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales; Richard B. Woosnam, Pendell Court Farm, Bletchingley, Surrey.

Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier was elected an Extra-Ordinary Member, Mr. Alwin K. Haagner, a Colonial Member, and Mons. Sergius N. Alphéraky a Foreign Member of the Union.

The following proposed additions to the Rules were then submitted to the Meeting:—

Rule 2.

After "Ordinary Members" in line 1, add "Lady Members."

After line 5, insert: "Lady Members shall be ladies qualified by special ornithological knowledge, and shall not exceed five in number."

Rule 3.

After "vote" in line 4, add "Lady Members."

After a short discussion the following two motions were put and carried, and the Secretary was instructed to amend the Rules accordingly:—

(1) Proposed by Mr. H. J. Elwes, and seconded by Mr. A. H. Evans :—

“That Ladies, qualified by special ornithological knowledge, be admitted as Honorary Members.”

(2) Proposed by Dr. F. G. Penrose, and seconded by Mr. E. Bidwell :—

“That the number of such Lady Members be limited to ten, as in the case of male Honorary Members.”

A vote of thanks to the Zoological Society of London for the use of their rooms was unanimously passed and the Meeting adjourned.

After the Meeting the joint Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union and the British Ornithologists' Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, and attended by the Members and their Guests.

XXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 383.]

51. *Bangs on some Colombian and Costa Rican Birds.*

[(1) Notes on Birds from Western Colombia. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol xxi. p. 157.

(2) A new Tyrant-bird from the Santa Marta Region of Colombia. *T. c.* p. 163.

(3) Notes on some rare or not well-known Costa Rican Birds. *Op. cit.* xxii. p. 29.]

Mr. Bangs, who is always hard at work on Colombian and Central American Birds, sends us separate copies of three papers which he has recently published. The first relates to a collection made “just south of Darien,” which contained examples of 110 species and subspecies. Thirteen forms are specified as being of special interest, amongst which are two rare Tanagers—*Chlorochrysa nitidissima* and *Iridornis porphyrocephala*. The following species and subspecies are described as new :—*Aulacorhamphus petax*, *Basileuterus*